

# **Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Conservation Strategy (CS) Workgroup Meeting**

May 14, 2007, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1131

## **Draft Meeting Notes**

### **Handouts and Associated Documents**

- Agenda
- Handout #1: Conservation Element Bundle Compatibility table (revised)
- Handout #2: Operations Bundles Assessment table
- Draft CS Workgroup 5/7/07 Meeting Notes

### **Action Items and Key Recommendations**

- Four draft short-list alternatives will be recommended at the Steering Committee on 5/18

### **Meeting Notes Review**

5/7 Notes accepted with the following changes:

- Associated Documents and Handouts: "...Handout #1, including Drafts of:..."
- In Short-listing, specify say that all short-listing work products are drafts
- Page 2, Paragraph 2: "He defined three categories into which conservation actions may fit." Change from "will fit."
- Page 2, Paragraph 2. "The CSA's may be developed in the context of conveyance options by the workgroup and would include:..."
- Page 2, Paragraph 3. "...may include Bundle #2" add "and/or other bundles."

### **Meeting purpose and schedule**

W. Wadlow noted that the current goal of the Workgroup is not to choose the alternatives for BDCP, but rather to identify a range of potential alternatives for more detailed evaluation.

P. Cylinder (SAIC) reviewed the process and schedule for developing the short-list of CSA's. Between last week and today, the Fisheries Agencies (USFWS, NMFS, and DFG) and the Potentially Regulated Entities (PRE's) developed preliminary conservation strategy short-list recommendations based on three conveyance options that were identified at 5/7 meeting. Today they will present their preliminary recommendations, and the group will try to come to agreement on a short-list that can be recommended to SC this Friday, 5/18. At next week's meeting the CS Workgroup will further refine the short-list. There will be no meeting on 5/28 (Memorial Day). On 6/4 the Workgroup will dovetail covered activities with the short-list of CSA's.

## **CSA Short-list development**

P. Cylinder presented two new documents: 1) Handout #1, table of weaknesses and strengths of each bundle, and 2) Handout #2, updated bundle compatibility table (including 5 additional bundles). See also Handouts and Associated Documents.

California Farm Bureau provided a hard copy handout of fish sampling locations in the Delta and recommended that existing observational data and environmental condition correlates be used in the analysis of short-list of CSA's.

PRE's and Fisheries Agencies each presented preliminary short-lists of CS alternatives; hard copy of handouts were provided to attendees.

Element bundles referenced in the proposals are the same as those included in the recent conservation element evaluation. Bundles #4 (South Delta Aqueduct) and #6 (Bifurcated Canal) were not included in any short-list recommendations. Bundles include:

1. Real-time operation of CVP/SWP pumps to minimize entrainment of fish during sensitive time periods.
2. Reduced water demand and Delta diversions.
3. Export water opportunistically.
5. Construct and operate an Isolated Facility
7. Construct and operate dual conveyance facilities.
8. Isolate San Joaquin River flows from through-Delta conveyance and SWP/CVP intakes.

### *Fish Agencies (presented by Carl Wilcox)*

The agencies constructed their short-list recommendations based on previously-identified conservation objectives and the Ecological Restoration Plan for the Delta, with emphasis on species recovery, ecosystem processes, and habitat restoration. They also considered key stressors and habitat characteristics discussed at the last CS meeting, including entrainment, enhanced residence time, and fluctuating salinity. All three options incorporate habitat restoration in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, and are designed to minimize impacts to species. Their recommended short-list includes options for:

- A) Through-Delta conveyance, including element bundles #1, #2, #3, and #8
- B) Isolated Facility, including element bundles #2, #3, and #5
- C) Dual Conveyance, including element bundles #1, #2, #3, #7, and #8

### *PRE's (presented by Ara Azhderian, Bill Bennett, Randall Neudeck)*

The PRE's used a 3-dimensional schematic of essential elements and processes for Delta management to guide their development of short-list alternatives, with the goal of achieving BDCP conservation goals, direct population/habitat benefit, and reliability of water. They also considered the high degree of uncertainty associated with some potential management actions, and attempted to build in maximum flexibility to the short-list alternative recommendations to address that uncertainty.

The schematic axes included: (X) physical engineering, (Y) pelagic habitat management options, and (Z) number of possible management outcomes.

The PRE's recommended short-list includes options for:

- A) Central Delta intake, including bundle #8
- B) Sacramento River Intake: Fully Isolated or Partially-isolated canal (dual), including bundle #5 and/or #7. Recommendation includes canal on east or west side of river and several siphons under the sloughs.
- C) South Delta intake: Opportunistic Delta with existing facilities and potential new storage, including bundles #2 and #3

### *Discussion*

The Workgroup agreed that the short-list options should be somewhat flexible at this point, and capture the range of possible engineering designs and operations. Covered Activities and Covered Species will be dovetailed with the short-list options in an iterative process.

There was not consensus among members as to whether Bundles #2 and #3 should be included in every short-list options. The members agreed to recommend four basic options to the Steering Committee, based on the proposals presented today. See also Action Items and Key Recommendations. Short-list options include:

- 1) Opportunistic Delta with Existing Conveyance and Potential New Storage (based on PRE Option C)
- 2) Through-Delta conveyance with San Joaquin River isolation (based on PRE Option A and Fisheries Agencies Option A)
- 3) Dual Conveyance (based on PRE Option B and Fisheries Agency Option B)
- 4) Isolated Conveyance (based on Fisheries Option B)

This short list will be recommended to the Steering Committee on 5/18 and more greater detailed will be added by CS Workgroup and consultants based on guidance from the Steering Committee. A small group will meet Thursday, 5/17 at 2 p.m. at State Water Contractors' office to further the recommendations in advance of the Steering Committee meeting.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments today.

### **Next Meeting**

Monday 5/21, same time and location.

**Meeting participants:**

Walt Wadlow (co-chair)  
Paul Cylinder  
Pete Rawlings  
Carl Wilcox  
Brent Walthall  
Barbra Mc Donnell  
John Cain  
Anthony Saracino (co-chair)  
Kim Delfino  
Richard Roos-Collins  
Steve Rothert  
Rosalie del Rosario  
Kenny Watkins  
Dale Myers  
Tim Quinn  
Sue Fry  
Ara Azhderian  
Cindy Darling  
Laura King-Moon  
Leo Winternitz

**Call-in attendees:**

Melissa Helton  
Mark Ebbin  
Craig Hansen  
Michael Bean